Amended version of EPS and EPFS

2580. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) and Employees Provident Fund Scheme (EPFS);

(b) whether the EPS, which was introduced in 1995, was amended by the EPS Act, in 1996;

(c) if so, the salient features of the amended version of the EPS;

(d) whether there is any bar on the employees opting and contributing to the revised EPS, which is stated to be beneficial to them in the long run; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard including guidelines, if any, issued by Government in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) The Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 as well as the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 were framed under the employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 to provide social security to the Indian working class. While the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 provides benefits in the shape of accumulation plus interest upon retirement/resignation or death of the member besides partial withdrawal for specific purposes, the Employees'Pension Scheme, 1995 provides for pensionary benefits to its members on superannuation/retirement/permanent and total disablement and to the widow/widower and two children/orphans/ nominee/dependent parents subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria as provided in the scheme.

(b) The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 introduced on 16.11.1995 was amended in 1996 by the Central Government, *vide* Notification GSR 134 dated 28.02.1996. This amendment came into force with effect from 16.03.1996.

(c) The amendment in the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 provided *inter-alia:*

(i) Communtation facility.

(ii) Guaranteed pensionary benefits.

(iii) Removal of limitation period of six months for exercising option for joining the Pension Scheme.

(iv) Extension of Children pension to married daughters,.

(v) Option for contribution above statutory limit.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no bar on the employees opting and contributing to the revised Pension Scheme provided option is exercised as per the Scheme provisions.

Increase of shifts in factories

2581. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase from three shifts to four shifts in factories to reduce unemployment problem to some extent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Factories work as per their requirement and infrastructure available. Ministry of Labour & Employment does not have any proposal to increase or decrease the number of shifts.

ILO's rate for employment opportunity

2582. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any strategy to bring the workers in the main stream due to hardship/challenges being faced by the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ILO has undertaken any projects to bring into the developing countries, including India, with the objective of creating more employment opportunities; and